

bomb was thrown. In the throng of traffic was an automobile with two occupants.

This was an exact replica of an automobile that was preceding the Minister's carriage. It was driven in between the carriage and the preceding automobile and then stopped suddenly, compelling M. de Plehve's carriage to stop too. As soon as the bomb was thrown the automobile disappeared and no trace of it has been found.

That the assassination was part of a widespread plot is indicated in the statement made by a moujik who was near the assassin when he was arrested. The moujik said: "A workman had just seized the murderer when the police rushed up and arrested him. The assassin exclaimed: 'That is nothing compared with what is to come. I am not the only one.'"

CONTEMPT IN THE CITY.

The news of the tragedy spread rapidly throughout the city and everywhere caused consternation.

Deputy Minister Durnovo has already assumed the duties of Minister of the Interior ad interim.

Baron Budberg communicated the news of the murder to the Czar.

Contrary to the accounts of witnesses, who say the Minister's body was torn to pieces, it was officially stated this afternoon that the post mortem examination of the remains showed no wounds on the body, except that the lower jaw was broken. Death was attributed to shock.

The Marquis Vassand who was returning from the station, having been to Gatchina, says that De Plehve was thrown on his back by the explosion and that there was little blood. His hand still held a paper that he had been reading.

DE PLEHVE ANTICIPATED IT.

Gen. Bogdanovich, an old friend of M. de Plehve, relates that the Minister last evening saw his wife and son off on a holiday, which they were to spend on his estate on the Volga.

M. de Plehve drove from the railway station, after his family left, to spend an hour with Gen. Bogdanovich. He did not conceal his gloomy presentiments, and even spoke as though he anticipated an early end to his life.

REQUIEM SERVICE HELD.

A requiem service for M. de Plehve was held in the Ministry of the Interior this evening. It was attended by diplomats, court functionaries, officials, military and naval officers, numerous private friends and members of society.

The shattered face of the Minister was covered with a veil. The coffin lay on a bier surrounded by beautiful plants and wreaths.

A requiem was also sung at the scene of the outrage, which was surrounded by hastily raised houses. The town street has been left intact pending a chemical examination to ascertain the nature of the explosive used. The internal machine itself seems to have been a small tin box containing, besides the explosive, scraps of metal.

The Official Messenger gives a list of the passers by who were wounded. It includes Capt. Tsvetkov of the army and six men, a woman and a child.

POLICE SUPPRESSED INFORMATION.

LONDON, July 28.—There is considerable divergence in the details of the assassination of M. de Plehve as received here, but in face of the accomplished fact they are of secondary importance. It is obvious that the police instantly shut down on every source of information, and many of the reports are the merest hearsay.

Most of them agree in declaring, notwithstanding the official statement that the body was not mutilated, that both legs and one arm were torn off and that the fact was terribly shattered. There is no confirmation of the reports that other persons were killed.

The estimates of the wounded vary from a score downward. Several arrests of suspected accomplices are reported, but nothing reliable can be ascertained on this point. The identity of the prisoners, like that of the assassin, is unknown.

The assassin is alternatively said to be speechless and dying, and as recovering and able to answer questions. He is described as being ragged, unkempt and dirty, and as wearing a railway man's uniform or cap assumed for disguise.

PRECAUTIONS FUTILE.

There does not seem to have been any slackness in the police precautions. M. de Plehve, who was always accompanied by detectives, was going by train to Peterhof to make his weekly report to the Czar. His movements would be known beforehand, and all the conspirators needed was to keep a sharp lookout and take accurate aim.

According to one story the assassin cooperated with another man, who signalled the Minister's approach, and the bomb was thrown almost simultaneously with the signal.

It is another instance of the comparative futility of police protection in the case of a hated personality doomed by desperate conspirators. Only a month ago M. de Plehve was quoted as saying to an English correspondent:

"My police easily control the Nihilists. Every one of them is known."

Now he lies blown to pieces through their agency.

DEAD MINISTER A DICTATOR.

LONDON, July 28.—The world's greatest oppressor and liberty's bitterest enemy died to-day as peacefully as an assassin's hand. That in brief is the view of the monarch of Europe takes of the murder of M. de Plehve, the Russian Minister of the Interior. The truth may now be told openly. M. de Plehve for two years was the dictator of the Russian Empire. By sheer force of his Napoleonic character he reduced the Czar to a puppet and dominated every department of the Government. He established a reign of terror and ruled the unhappy land with a relentless cruelty that brought the country to the verge of ruin and revolution.

His assassination has been inevitable for weeks. It was foreshadowed more than a month ago in these despatches. It speaks well for the self-restraint of his long-suffering countrymen that it was so long delayed. Appeal to an Emperor who could not or would not rule was hopeless.

HIS LIFE OR THE NATION'S.

No other remedy remained. It became a choice between the life of this man and the life of the nation. His fate was so certain that it was like suicide. He himself during the last days of his life knew that he was doomed and confessed to his friends. It is a pity he did not foresee earlier the penalty of his tyranny.

It is by no means certain, however, that it would have changed his policy, for even his enemies admit that he knew no such thing as fear. He was Russia's worst enemy, yet he was sincere in believing that his methods of blood and cruelty were the best means of controlling the mighty empire

the government of which was in his hands. It is no paradox to say that the murder of De Plehve is a salutary crime, but it will not suffice to emancipate Russia. Had the spirit of courage been so dead in the land that no hand could be found to strike this blow, then, indeed, it might be feared that the empire was doomed.

HEAD OF A CONSPIRACY.

De Plehve, however, was but the executive head of a conspiracy which enslaved and plundered the nation. The chief conspirators are a band of about thirty so-called aristocrats. Will the fate of Gen. Bobrikoff, late Governor General of Finland, and De Plehve check their plans? It will not, it is to be feared, unless they are convinced that persistence in persecutions will endanger their own skins. They will, however, find difficulty in procuring men of both ability and courage to play in public the part of oppressors of the empire.

There is another possible hope. Will not the eyes of the misguided Czar perhaps be opened at last and will he not summon sufficient strength of character to turn out the reactionaries and thieves and place the government in the hands of men unselfish and enlightened?

EUROPE LOOKS TO DE WITTE.

Europe is inclined to believe that M. de Witte is the only man who can save the situation, who can avert revolution and preserve the dynasty.

Never was Russia in such imminent peril as at the present moment. The corrupt regime now in power might succeed in creating anarchy if turned out. Anarchy is equally likely to come speedily if it remains. The war in the Far East dwindles into insignificance compared with the terrible events which threaten near at home.

CZAR MARKED FOR DEATH.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Express says that the assassination of M. de Plehve has caused a panic in high official circles. The tragedy completely overshadowed the disastrous events of the war. It is not merely the individual crime which appalls, but the knowledge of what it foreshadows.

The police possess clues which lead to the conclusion that de M. Plehve's murder was the result of a carefully prepared plot. The authorities are convinced that the assassination is a link in a long chain of similar crimes. It is fully realized that a new Nihilist reign of terror has been inaugurated.

The revolutionists have drawn a long list of high personages who have been condemned to death by the revolutionary committees as opportunities for their assassination occur. The Czar's name figures first on the list, which also contains the names of M. Pobloponoff, Procurator-General of the Holy Synod; Prince Ivan Obolensky, the newly appointed Governor General of Finland, and M. Bezobrazoff, the Czar's favorite, who is accused of causing the war with Japan.

PLEHVE'S PRECAUTIONS MANY.
Said to have spent \$500,000 yearly in protecting his own person.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, July 28.—A correspondent whom the Chronicle lately sent to report the internal unrest in Russia, writes that the assassination of M. de Plehve was an elaborate act in a struggle which has reached an acute stage, a struggle which has been going on for the last three years between the heads of the Government and the organized revolutionists.

M. de Plehve had enjoyed long immunity. He learned how to protect himself in the struggle of twenty years ago. He never moved without a large bodyguard of police in civilian clothing. It is reported, probably with exaggeration, that he spent \$500,000 yearly in protecting his own person.

A recent report on police expenditure, written by M. de Plehve, shows that, whereas up to 1880 \$450,000 a year was enough for secret purposes, the development of societies hostile to the Government and the restlessness of students, artisans and the peasantry have since necessitated rapid increase.

Last year a return showed that \$715,000 was spent at home and \$90,000 abroad. But in addition to this the cost of the general Police Department and the gendarmes rose to \$230,000, and the whole account showed a deficit of \$300,000.

HAY SENDS CONDOLENCES.

Message to Lamsdorff on De Plehve's Death Regarded as Unusual.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Secretary Hay to-night sent to Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, a message expressing his condolences over the sudden and terrible death of his colleague, M. de Plehve.

This is regarded as an unusual procedure, as it is customary to send official messages of condolence only upon the death of a sovereign or a member of the royal family.

EUROPE NOT SURPRISED.

Little Sympathy for De Plehve, Although His Murder Caused a Sensation.

LONDON, July 28.—Telegrams from the Continental capitals show that the assassination of M. de Plehve has caused a universal sensation, which, however, is not increased by surprise.

Even in France, where the least severe view is openly taken of his ally's murdered Minister and the crime is condemned as abhorrent, it is pointed out by the *Securite* that two methods were open to M. de Plehve to deal with Russia's internal disease, that is, to suppress the cause or suppress the symptoms—in other words, liberalism or repression.

In Berlin, where also the news created an immense sensation, it is not a sensation of sympathetic indignation. Platitudinous condemnation of the deed is accompanied by outspoken exposition of the cause and effect. A large section of German opinion has been moved to indignation by the recent assistance given the Russian secret police in bounding political refugees in Germany by the Prussian Government, culminating in the trial of some of the victims at Koenigsberg on the very morning of M. de Plehve's murder.

The eminent Professor Delbrueck published an eloquent protest against the Prussian Government's cooperation with Russia in these measures, in which he said that Russia was not a civilized country. Political assassination in Russia and the rest of Europe are two totally different things.

When despotism assumes absolutely intolerable forms, or a system of violence becomes so terrible as to violate all the laws of humanity, murder appears to be the last resource for the salvation, or at least the vengeance, of mankind. All classes of society in Russia are associated with such murders, from the court which organizes palace revolutions and assassinates Emperors to the Nihilists, who kill Governors and Ministers.

BERLIN, July 28.—The press comments on the assassination of Plehve are not sympathetic. They agree that one can be appalled, but not surprised, at the ferocious

death of this main pillar of the reactionary system.

Hope is expressed that Russian statesmen will now adopt European ways of ruling an empire, which is the only means to avoid a terrible crisis that might shake the throne.

It is pointed out that the use of a bomb proves the existence of a conspiracy, because a single man would be unable to manufacture such an article.

CASSINI HEARS THE NEWS.

He Was De Plehve's Friend—Doesn't Anticipate Trouble in Russia.

BAR HARBOR, Me., July 28.—Count Cassini, Russian Ambassador to the United States, who has his summer headquarters here, received a lengthy despatch from St. Petersburg to-night telling him of the assassination of M. de Plehve. When seen to-night by a representative of the SUN he said that there was nothing in his private despatch which had not been covered by the news despatches.

The Russian embassy, which is located in a house that is none too big for the vast amount of business that is transacted there nowadays, was a hive of industry to-night. The cipher from the Russian capital did not get here until 9 o'clock and it kept the secretaries busy for some time transcribing it.

The attaches as well as the Ambassador showed signs of emotion. M. de Plehve was a personal friend of Count Cassini. The Ambassador paid a high tribute to the ability of the deceased Minister. He did not think that the killing was part of a deep laid plot and believed that the assassination would not accomplish much in the way of stirring up feeling in the interior of Russia, but rather that it would lead to a general outburst of patriotism, for the Count believes there are no more patriotic people in the world than his own. Count Cassini made the following statement:

"By the death of De Plehve Russia loses one of her ablest, most capable and earnest officials. He was a man of the highest integrity and moral rectitude. I knew De Plehve personally, and had the highest regard for him. The blow is a severe one, coming as it does at a time when the Government is especially busy, but we do not believe that the death of this Minister will find that if they counted upon obtaining any sympathy for their contemptible crime they will be much mistaken. The people of Russia, who are intensely patriotic, will be drawn closer than ever to the Government by this unexpected outrage."

THINK IT WILL HELP JAPS.
Washington inclined to Take That View of the Assassination.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—The State Department is inclined to believe that the assassination of M. de Plehve will help the Japanese cause. The State Department is inclined to believe that the assassination of M. de Plehve will help the Japanese cause. The State Department is inclined to believe that the assassination of M. de Plehve will help the Japanese cause.

Plehve assassinated this morning. Others also killed and wounded. Bomb exploded in the street. Authorities here have for some time been inclined to believe that Russia had retained the flower of her army at home in preparation for probable internal disturbances and had sent untrained and untold troops into the field.

This circumstance may have aided materially in the successes achieved by the Japanese and forces, and it is considered that the assassination of the Minister of the Interior, and further and more serious internal dissension which may possibly follow, will contribute to the continued advantage of the Japanese.

DE PLEHVE WIDELY HATED.
Jews Blamed Him for Mishloff, Poles Called Him Traitor to His Race.

All of those high in power in Russia and strong in influence with the Emperor Nicholas there probably was none who was more cordially detested than was Wladimir Konstantinovich de Plehve. His enemies were not few. He was a Jew-hater, a Polish-hater, a socialist or radical group in the empire. They were widely diffused—scattered through many such groups.

The Jews in particular hated him. They identified him with the ultra form of antisemitism. They flatterly accused him of being the unseen power behind the horrible Kishineff massacre of 1903. If he did not actually bring about the Kishineff outbreak, many Jews fully believe that he secretly instigated it.

The accusation that M. de Plehve used his great authority to shield the perpetrators of this atrocity and condone their offense was not confined to the Jews alone. It was generally charged by the press of Europe that the entire attitude of the Minister of the Interior suggested a sympathy with the deed at Kishineff and with the motive behind the deed.

The Poles hated him because, being largely of Polish extraction himself, he had for years identified himself with a zealous execution of Russian repressive measures in Poland. It is related of him that he was a Polish friend of his youth through whose financial aid he got the education that made possible his rise to that power which he used so remorselessly. Among the Poles he was regarded as a species of turncoat who had betrayed his countrymen and his country in order to win favor with a despotism that was oppressing both.

If he was loathed by the Poles he was no less execrated by the Finns. The same relentless and harsh measures which he had applied in keeping the Poles under in moral dread of Russian authority he had applied with equal, if not even greater, severity to the recently absorbed territory of Finland. He was a member of a group that held M. de Plehve in strong dislike was the student element, the element from which he himself had emerged from obscurity to such vast power that in the latter days of his life he was frequently referred to as the man behind the throne of all the Russias. He had persecuted the student agitators of the reform movement and ingenuously more suggestive of medieval days than of the twentieth century.

FEARED ASSASSINATION.
None knew better than De Plehve himself how intense was the hatred his reactionary career had excited. He went in hourly danger of assassination, and was perfectly well aware of the fact. He took every precaution he could take, short of actual, constant internment, to protect himself. He never drove through the streets save at a swift pace and in a well-guarded motor car.

Yet with all these precautions he knew how insecure he actually was. His predecessor as Minister of the Interior, Sipiaguine, was shot down and killed in broad daylight only a few months over two years ago. A student named Balachanoff got access to Sipiaguine under some plausible pretense, handed him a document, and while the unsuspecting Minister was glancing over it,

fired five shots at him, two of which lodged in his body with fatal effect.

Still more recently, only a few days ago, in fact, there had occurred the assassination of the Russian Governor of Finland, Bobrikoff, and the Finnish hatred of Bobrikoff was not a whit more intense than was the Finnish hatred of De Plehve. If Bobrikoff had been remorseless in inflicting on the Finns the harsh Russian laws of repression and oppression, in so doing he was only following the instructions of his immediate superior, the head of the Department of the Interior.

Assassination, in a word, has been in the air all about the fatal Russian Minister of the Interior for months past, and finally his hour struck as it has struck for so many of Russia's potentates, princes and bureaucratic petty sovereigns.

KILLED AS WAS ALEXANDER II.
The assassination of De Plehve is in many respects strikingly similar to that of the Emperor Alexander II., which took place on March 13, 1881, less than four months before the assassination of De Plehve. The similarity between these two Russian assassinations is so strong that it is impossible to escape the suspicion that the murderers of De Plehve studied very carefully the crime of the Emperor's murderers.

Repeated attempts had recently been made on the life of the Czar. Only a short time before, a portion of the Winter Palace had been blown up as the result of one of the most audacious and desperate conspiracies known even to the annals of Russia. Practically the Russian Emperor was a prisoner, surrounded constantly by either a wall of stone and mortar or by a wall of armed bodyguards. He rarely ventured out and when he did it was only to drive at a furious pace through the streets, with a retinue of mounted guards clattering before, behind and on both sides of his carriage.

DE PLEHVE GUARDED CLOSELY.
In this particular the case is precisely parallel with that of De Plehve, save that in De Plehve's case the guards were detectives instead of soldiers, and were mounted on bicycles instead of horses. There was no reason to get at him, but the Minister of the Interior with any reasonable certainty of success save by a bomb, the explosive qualities of which were powerful enough to spread a zone of death and utter annihilation over a wide area around the spot where it struck. There was small chance of hitting either Emperor or Minister with a pistol or rifle bullet, half-recoiled as they were in their fast moving carriage.

The Czar, at the time he was killed, had been induced—at the risk of his life, as he probably very well knew—to attend a military ceremony in connection with one of the distinguished Russian regiments. On the way back he stepped at the palace of a relative for refreshment. In getting to his own palace there was a choice of two roads, and, as it afterward was shown, the Nihilists had a death trap for him on both routes.

He selected the route along the Catherine Canal. A bomb was thrown so inaccurately that it fell behind the imperial carriage, wounding two coaches. Had the Emperor driven on he would have escaped. He insisted on getting out and seeing to the wounded men, and this generous impulse cost him his life. A second bomb fell at his feet as he alighted on the pavement. The explosion tore off both his legs below the knees.

The bomb in both cases was thrown from windows, the only difference being that only one bomb was necessary in De Plehve's case, the aim with which it was thrown being deadly in its accuracy.

The other assassinations of rulers and those high in office which have followed those of the Czar and President Garfield, 1881, are the case of President Carnot of France, who was shot by a bomb on June 24, 1894; the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, stabbed to death in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1898; King Humbert of Italy, shot by the anarchist, Bresci, at Monza, just four years ago to-day; the Governor of Finland and De Plehve's predecessor above mentioned, the Governor of Warsaw, in 1903, and the Emperor of Mexico, Don Carlos, who was shot by a bomb on the 19th of February, which occurred a week ago last Tuesday.

HIS CAREER LARGELY OFFICIAL.
Outside of his official life the career of De Plehve presents little of interest. He was born in Poland, in 1838, the son of a poor nobleman. He then became the protégé of a wealthy Polish noble. He went to Moscow, where he was educated for the law, and was appointed assistant to the procurator of the Moscow courts.

He was a plodder, persistent and of strong but not brilliant mentality. He early developed a capacity for intrigue as well as hard work. He became Imperial Counsel of the courts of Warsaw and there began the unrelenting warfare against his own Polish fellow countrymen which won him much applause in the world of Russian bureaucracy and court hangers in Poland.

He was the champion of the ultra form of the Emperor Alexander II., and after the assassination of that monarch distinguished himself in the prosecution of the assassins. In this prosecution he ran amuck, terrorizing right and left, until it seemed as though the days of medieval Russia had returned. He filled prisons and started a pitiable procession of high educated men and women on the road to Siberia.

In 1901 he was Secretary of State for Finance, and on the death of Sipiaguine was made Secretary of the Interior, where, in spite of the bitter hatreds he had inspired, he continued to enjoy the confidence of the Czar, over whom he was reputed to have much influence.

Pope Sends His Condolences.
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, July 28.—The Pope, on being told of the death of M. de Plehve, exclaimed: "The unfortunate man! Let us pray." His Holiness has ordered a message of sympathy to be sent to the Russian capital.

JAPS CHARGE TREACHERY.
Accuse Russians of Violating Japanese Flag in Fight With Takushan Army.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
TOKYO, July 28.—The Japanese government has charged the Russian government with the violation of the Japanese flag in the fight with the Takushan army reports that on Friday afternoon he surrounded three Russian battalions near the Panling road. The Russians retreated north, leaving fourteen killed. Three Russians were captured. The Japanese casualties were thirty killed and wounded.

It is charged that the Russians violated the Japanese flag under which the Japanese army fought at the beginning of the fight.

CONSTITUTION MAKERS' TRIP.
See Coney Island and Then Are Entertained at Manhattan Beach.

The members of the Constitutional Convention of 1904, who are celebrating in this city the tenth anniversary of its meetings, met in the Governor's room of the City Hall yesterday. After seeing the paintings and historical relics they went to the Brooklyn Bridge, where a special train was waiting to take them to Coney Island.

In the afternoon they were entertained at Dreamland, where they saw the shows and shot the chutes. They went to the Casino and saw the performances of the Ward took in the performance of "The Runaway" at the Manhattan Beach Theatre.

RUSSIA YIELDS TO ENGLAND.
Promises to Withdraw Her Ships from Red Sea.

Balfour Announces in Commons That Malacca Incident is Closed, but Case of Knight Commander is Still Open—Russia May Disavow Officers' Acts.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCHES TO THE SUN.
LONDON, July 28.—In the House of Commons to-day Premier Balfour said that the acute stage of the affair growing out of the Red Sea incidents had passed and that Russia would withdraw the ships of the volunteer fleet.

"I have very little to add," said Mr. Balfour, "to what is now common property. The House will remember that the Malacca was seized by a steamer of the Russian volunteer fleet which issued from the Black Sea. We took the strongest possible exception to that course, on the ground that no belligerent vessel could issue from the Black Sea, and, in our judgment, the volunteer ships had either no right to issue or no right to act as warships."

"Russia has met us—I won't say on the general principle—but, regarding this particular incident, it was impossible to stop the Malacca before she reached Algiers; but now she is released, Russia assuring us that if the volunteer ships make any further captures, before orders can reach them, their capture will be regarded as not having occurred."

RUSSIA WILL WITHDRAW SHIPS.
"We have received assurances that the volunteer ships will be withdrawn from the Red Sea. [Heart! Heart!]

"I have little doubt that Russia will have no further desire to use them as cruisers. As regards these ships, therefore, the controversy has passed out of the acute stage. I won't say that we are in agreement with Russia on the general principle, but we do not anticipate any practical violation of the views we very strongly hold."

"There are, I am sorry to say, other questions, unconnected with these incidents, which must give rise to some discussion and cause some anxiety. We hold it not proper that, on the authority of the Captain of a cruiser, goods alleged to be contraband should be taken from a merchant ship."

"We have earnestly pressed our views on the Russian Government, and we have a strong impression that when the case is brought—as it has been brought by us—before the Russian Government, they will give such orders as will prevent a recurrence of unfortunate incidents of this character. [Cheers.]

WHAT NEUTRAL SHIPS SHOULD DO.
"I don't know that there is anything else that I need say on the international aspect of this question; but perhaps the House will allow me to say, on a matter in which we are directly concerned, that I can't help thinking there is a misapprehension—I won't say in this House, but outside—as to the duties incumbent on belligerents. I have so far stated that I believe to be the duties and obligations, but there are also duties incumbent on neutrals, which must be borne in mind by the ship owners of this country."

"It is undoubtedly the duty of the captain of a neutral ship to stop when he is summoned to do so by a belligerent, and immediately to allow his papers, without difficulty, to be examined. This is one obligation on neutrals upon which we systematically, consistently and determinedly insisted when we were in the position of a belligerent, and it would not do for us to indulge in any attempt to minimize it. [Cheers.]

KNIGHT COMMANDER CASE NOT SETTLED.
Answering Mr. Walter Rindman, Mr. Balfour said that the question of compensation in the case of the steamship Knight Commander, sunk by the Russian Vladivostok squadron, was still left open.

Mr. James Keir Hardie asked whether, in the event of a question arising between Russia and England that would be likely to lead to hostilities, it would be referred to the Hague Tribunal.

Mr. Balfour replied: "The honorable member need not suspect the Government of any desire recklessly to plunge this country into hostilities. I should be traveling beyond my functions were I say what cases are or are not of a character that should be submitted to the Hague Tribunal until the cases arise."

NO RIGHT TO SINK SHIPS.
In the House of Lords the Marquis of Lansdowne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, made, in reference to the destruction of the Knight Commander, a statement similar to that made by Premier Balfour in the House of Commons. He said that upon a hypothesis of international law could a neutral vessel, even if her cargo contained contraband, be sunk on the mere fact of a commander of a ship of war and without reference to a properly constituted prize court.

The Marquis said he therefore did not think the Russian Government would hesitate to disavow the action of their servants. The Cabinet met again to-day, and Sir Robert B. Finlay, the Attorney-General, was again in attendance.

The Exchange Telegraph Company's St. Petersburg correspondent says he has been officially informed that the Russian Government has given a comparatively satisfactory assurance to England that the question of the sinking of the British steamship Knight Commander will be amicably settled. This statement was made by the Foreign Office at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT DISAPPROVES.
BERLIN, July 28.—The SUN's correspondent learns from an official source that the Russian Government disapproves of the action of the Russian officers in capturing and sinking neutral ships, which they did without instructions.

English and German complaints have been treated with equal good will. No consequences are expected, Germany and England recognizing the desire of the Russian Government to avoid any violation of the fixed rules of international law.

PARIS, July 28.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Petit Parisien* says that in consequence of a threat of reprisals made by the British Government the steamship St. Petersburg of the Russian volunteer fleet has hauled down her St. Andrew's flag and has hoisted the Russian commercial ensign.

RUSSIANS HOLD EUROPEANS.
Part of Knight Commander's Crew Prisoners on the Cruiser Gromobol.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
LONDON, July 28.—The owners of the Knight Commander received information to-day that the European members of the crew are prisoners on board the Russian cruiser Gromobol, one of the ships of the Vladivostok squadron.

RUSSIA WANTS GERMANY'S AID
To Maintain Peace in Poland if Russian Garrison is Sent to Far East.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
BERLIN, July 28.—According to the Reichspost, the sudden recall by telegram of Ge. von Kinn, Prussian Minister of

War, from his vacation, was due to an inquiry which Russia addressed to Germany asking whether she might rely upon Germany's assistance in the event of a rebellion in Poland resulting from the withdrawal of the Russian garrisons in that province for service in the Far East.

NAVAL BATTLE OFF JAPAN.
Heavy Firing Heard From the Sea Since Wednesday Night.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCHES TO THE SUN.
LONDON, July 28.—A despatch to the Telegraph from Tokyo says that the police station at Shimoda, Province of Idsu, reported at midday Thursday that heavy cannonading had been heard at sea since 10 o'clock the night before.

Tokio, July 28.—The British battleship Ocean and three destroyers are expected at Yokohama. They were ordered on July 28 to leave Hong Kong and proceed to Yokohama.

The Russian Vladivostok squadron was reported at noon to-day off the coast of Awa province, 300 miles southwest of Yokohama and at the eastern entrance of the Inland Sea.

WE ARE WAITING ON RUSSIA.
Reply to Arabia Protest Not Expected for Some Days—Russia Case Closed.